

Message Text

SECRET

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6609

S E C R E T ATHENS 9374

NODIS

PLEASE PASS WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU

SUBJECT: GREEK-TURKISH AEGEAN TENSIONS: COMMENTS BY ARCH-
BISHOP IAKOVOS

REF: ATHENS 9265

1. ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS ARRIVED IN ATHENS A WEEK AGO AND IS RETURNING TO NEW YORK SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH. WHILE IN GREECE HE HAS TALKED MANY TIMES TO PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS, PRESIDENT TSATSOS, DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF, AND MANY OTHER TOP GREEK GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PROMINENT PERSONALITIES IN THIS COUNTRY, MOST OF WHOM HE HAS KNOWN INTIMATELY FOR A LONG TIME. I MYSELF HAVE MET PRIVATELY WITH HIM THREE TIMES AT HIS REQUEST.

2. ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS HAS BEEN HERE DURING A PERIOD OF INTENSE ACTIVITY IN AN EFFORT TO DEAL WITH RENEWED TENSIONS AND DANGERS IN THE AEGEAN AS A RESULT OF THE SISMIK'S JUST ANNOUNCED NEW PROGRAM OF OPERATIONS AND RESEARCH. ALTHOUGH THE OFFICIAL GREEK GOVERNMENT AND GENERAL PUBLIC REACTION TO THESE DEVELOPMENTS HAS BEEN MUTED AND GREATLY RESTRAINED, BEHIND THE SCENES THERE HAS BEEN DEEP BITTERNESS AND ANGER. ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS ASSURES ME -- AND I BELIEVE HIM -- THAT HE HAS SOUGHT TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN HELPING TO MODERATE

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THE REACTION IN GREECE AND TO MINIMIZE THE DIRECTION OF ANY
GREEK BITTERNESS OR ANGER AGAINST THE U.S.

3. THE ARCHBISHOP INDICATED TO ME THAT HE WANTS TO AVOID
ANY APPEARANCE OF BECOMING INVOLVED IN THE DOMESTIC,
POLITICAL PROCESS OR CAMPAIGNS IN THE U.S. HOWEVER, I
HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE IS DEFINITELY SYMPATHETIC TO
THE PRESIDENT AND WHAT WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH.
WHILE I DO NOT BELIEVE HE WILL TAKE ANY INITIATIVE ON HIS
RETURN TO THE U.S. TO CONTACT ANYONE IN THE WHITE HOUSE
OR THE DEPARTMENT, I FEEL CERTAIN HE WOULD BE MOST RECEPTIVE
TO AN INITIATIVE FROM WASHINGTON AND WOULD READILY MAKE HIMSELF
AVAILABLE FOR A MEETING, ON WHATEVER BASIS WAS DESIRED, TO
DISCUSS HIS IMPRESSIONS OF THIS WEEK'S VISIT TO GREECE.
AS A MINIMUM, IF HE IS NOT ASKED TO COME TO WASHINGTON I
SHOULD THINK AN APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENT OFFICER COULD BE OFFERED
TO DEBRIEF HIM IN NEW YORK.
KUBISCH

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED WHITE HOUSE.

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NNN

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